

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1703 without my signature.

Certified green business programs are a useful tool for consumers, businesses and government entities to promote environmentally responsible practices. These green certification programs have been increasing in numbers since 1996. This bill creates a “California certified” green business program for businesses that comply with specified criteria and checklists adopted by California State University (CSU) Hayward’s Environmental Finance Center.

This bill creates one-size-fits all approach to green business programs and does not give local governments the flexibility to respond to the needs of businesses in their community. This bill impedes the ability of existing local green business programs that operate independently to acquire grant funding. Several successful green business programs are already in place on a voluntary basis and operate without government involvement or assistance.

For these reasons I cannot support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger